

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: EB/OA/AVP: JKGORDON:GL

APPROVED BY: EB/OA/AVP: DBORTMAN

DIST: EB, EUR

----- 090334

O 052129Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHMOL/AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 2173

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 183981

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 183981 ACTION MOSCOW 04 AUG 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 183981

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, UR

SUBJECT: TOURIST VISIT, ATLANTA SKYLARKS AIR TRAVEL CLUB

1. ATLANTA SKYLARKS AIR TRAVEL CLUB, INC HAS ASKED DEPT ASSISTANCE IN SALVAGING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CLUB TOUR TO LENINGRAD. ORIGINAL PLAN WAS FOR 4-DAY STAY IN LENINGRAD. SKYLARKS APPLIED TO INTOURIST THROUGH AN AGENT FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. INTOURIST QUOTED PRICES IN MESSAGE DTG 23/4 1058, LEADING SKYLARKS BELIEVE THAT CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT LATER. SKYLARKS PROPOSED ALTERNATIVELY TO VISIT MOSCOW OR KIEV.

2. SKYLARKS WERE ADVISED ON JULY 31 THAT NO HOTEL SPACE FOR ANY VISIT COULD BE CONFIRMED. THIS WOULD CAUSE COLLAPSE OF ALL OF GROUP'S OTHER PLANS.

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3. SKYLARKS NOW PROPOSE TO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE TRIP BY STAYING IN HELSINKI, FLYING EARLY ON AUGUST 14 IN CLUB'S BOEING 720 FROM HELSINKI TO LENINGRAD, ARRIVING APPROXIMATELY 9:00 LOCAL. CLUB WOULD PROPOSE DAY TOURS OF LENINGRAD, WITH DEPARTURE APPROXIMATELY 10:00 PM FOR HELSINKI. DUE TO PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENT MOSCOW ACCEPTABLE TO SKYLARKS VICE LENINGRAD.

4. CANCELLATION OF CLUB'S PLANS WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE BAD FEELING, WHETHER OR NOT BASED ON ANY INTOURIST COMMITMENT. CONVERSELY, TOUR COULD PROVIDE NOVEL WAY FOR INTOURIST TO IMPRESS THIS GROUP, AND OTHER POTENTIAL TOURISTS.

5. AIRCRAFT BOEING 720-022, US REGISTRY N-7228U. OWNER-SHIP: INDEPENDENT AIR, INC., ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
FLIGHT CREW: CAPTAIN: JOHN SOMERFIELD
FIR TOFF JERRY BATTENHOUSE
SECOND OFF: JOHN ZIMMERMAN
NAVIGATOR: HARRY MAUGANS.

3 FLIGHT ATTENDANTS
113 PASSENGERS
ALL ARE AMCITS.
SKYLARKS WOULD PICK UP ESCORT CREW IN HELSINKI.
ACFT HAS FOLLOWING NAV EQUIPMENT:
DUAL VOR, DUAL ADF, DUAL DME, TRANSPONDER, DUAL VHF, DUAL HF, LORAN,

FLIGHT PLAN-DEPART HELSINKI 140800Z AIRWAY R-1 TO EFES
FIR, DIRECT TO LENINGRAD
ARRIVE LENINGRAD 140850Z
DEPART LENINGRAD 142200Z
ARRIVE HELSINKI 14Z300Z
SKYLARKS WILL FOLLOW ANY OTHER ROUTE WHICH SOVIET AUTHORITIES MIGHT REQUIRE.

6. ACTION: SKYLARKS WOULD NEED: (1) APPROVAL FOR DAY TRIP; (2) VISAS, WHICH THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR THEMSELVES; (3) FLIGHT CLEARANCE AND LANDING PERMIT. REQUEST EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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APPLY FOR APPROVAL OF DAY TRIP AND CLEARANCES. INGERSOLT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, ITINERARY, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE183981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/OA/AVP: JKGORDON:GL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750270-0649
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750881/aaaactlw.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JAN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOURIST VISIT, ATLANTA SKYLARKS AIR TRAVEL CLUB
TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, UR, SKYLARKS
To: LENINGRAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006